

TOP SECRET

20 May 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ORE

Subject: Excerpt from Minutes of IAC Meeting on May 20, 1949

ADM. INGLIS: Something just occurred to me and I may be all off base because I am not completely informed. We are becoming very much concerned about the developments in China, the position that the United States is getting itself put into in the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia and that whole part of the world. It just seems to me that the intelligence side of that question hasn't yet been adequately handled. We haven't carried out our responsibility to our Government and our respective Departments. Things are moving too fast. I'm afraid events are overtaking intelligence instead of intelligence keeping ahead of the events. I hear CIA did get a study out on that. The Navy was very unhappy about the study at the time it was issued, and I rather suspect, due to the month or so that has elapsed since the study was made, that it is perhaps time for another one.

DIRECTOR: We shall get another one out.

MR. ARMSTRONG: If you are referring to the one I think, ORE 17-49, the State Department is very unhappy over that, particularly the major conclusions of that paper. We appear, by error on our part, to have concurred on it in full. Our concurrence should have been limited to the political estimate of 1952 only and not to the paper as a whole. We are going to ask CIA to distribute a paper to the holders of that ORE one, limiting our concurrence and indicating the basis for our non-concurrence on the remainder of the paper. I would like to suggest that whole question be brought under study again because I don't believe - I will put it the other way - I do believe the issue there is so major, so important, that not too much time or too much effort can be spent on it. The State Department, particularly, would like to restate, or state anew its views.

DIRECTOR: I think instead of 1952, it should be 1949.

MR. ARMSTRONG: That changes the assumptions.

ADM. INGLIS: I am speaking of the near term, immediate significance on that. Six months ago we might have been thinking about 1952, but not li's 1950.

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DIRECTOR: We will start up the working boys on a paper for the next six months or next year.

ADM. INGLIS: Why do we have to start with assumptions on time at all? Say: here it is, this is it and this is what it's going to be.

DIRECTOR: We can do that.

PRESOTT CHILDS
Chief, ICAPS

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